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Chairman: Mr. Matute (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Peru)
later: Mr. Niculescu (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Romania)

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00-26988 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Olhaye (Djibouti), Mr. Matute (Peru), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 101: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (A/54/39, A/54/225, A/54/273, A/54/425, A/54/175, A/54/292-S/1999/917, A/53/788 and Add.1)

1. **The Chairman** expressed, on behalf of the Committee, its sincere condolences to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania on the death of former President Julius Nyerere, an eminent African and a highly appreciated figure in United Nations circles. **Ms. Nuñez** (Cuba), **Mr. Diseko** (South Africa), **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica), **Mr. Adawa** (Kenya) and **Ms. Ashipala-Musavyi** (Namibia) associated themselves with that statement.

2. **Mr. Huang Xueqi** (People's Republic of China) said that he fully endorsed the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the item under consideration, and he stressed the importance of the operational activities of the United Nations system in achieving self-sufficiency for the developing countries and accelerating their economic and social development. His delegation commended the initiative of the United Nations Development Group to help countries to reduce absolute poverty by 50 per cent by the year 2015. While adequate planning and coordination of operational activities were necessary, the crux was still to ensure adequate funding. He therefore noted with regret that official development assistance had fallen to its lowest level and that shortage of core resources had greatly weakened the capacity of agencies within the development system to conduct their activities. Core resources should come mainly from the governments of developed countries, especially those having the capacity but not having assumed their obligations. The international community had the responsibility to turn its enthusiasm and political will into concrete action for the promotion of human rights by increasing its contributions to operational activities for development.

3. His delegation also reaffirmed the principle that operational activities for development should be country-driven. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should be jointly formulated by the government of the recipient country and related United Nations agencies through consultations and in conformity with the country's development plans and priorities. That would strengthen the country's sense of ownership and enable the Framework to play its proper role.

4. At a time when the world economy was undergoing globalization at a rapid pace, South-South cooperation was of great importance for enhancing collective self-reliance of developing countries, promoting their economic development and facilitating North-South dialogue. The continuing evolution of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) was a part of that process. While encouraging progress had been made in TCDC since the new directions strategy had been launched, his delegation emphasized that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should allocate more funds from its core resources to TCDC programmes and that efforts should be made to expand non-core resources from, for example, the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the private sector. Furthermore, in order for TCDC to made genuine advances, there must be new approaches and initiatives, such as transforming technical cooperation into technological cooperation. Developing countries possessed a good deal of scientific and technological know-how that could be shared through exhibitions, fairs and cooperative explorations. That was in accordance with the trend towards the development of the knowledge-based economy, the potential of which should not be underestimated. His delegation hoped that all parties would reflect on that possibility. Nevertheless, South-South cooperation should not replace traditional North-South technology transfer but rather supplement it. The developing countries might also consider other options, such as triangular cooperation.

5. Ways of integrating TCDC and ECDC should also be explored. TCDC must break through its traditional framework and expand to major sectors of the economy, such as trade, investment and finance, and cooperation should be promoted among business sectors and enterprises in different countries. United

Nations agencies in the economic and social fields, the regional economic commissions and the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should carry out integrated reviews of TCDC and ECDC with a view to formulating relevant action plans. China was looking forward to the holding of the South Summit in Havana in February 2000, which would undoubtedly provide new political momentum and crucial opportunities for South-South cooperation.

6. **Mr. Taye** (Ethiopia) supported the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that, despite the efforts of the international community, abject poverty remained the most pressing problem confronting mankind. The United Nations could play a decisive role in the struggle against poverty: if adequate normative and institutional frameworks were established and the necessary resources made available, the operational funds and programmes of the United Nations could foster sustainable economic growth and development. In that context, it was necessary that the principles issuing from the last triennial policy review should be applied fully and in a timely and coherent manner to operational activities for development.

7. Ethiopia was one of the largest recipients of assistance programmes, and its Government had formulated national execution modalities for United Nations-assisted programmes, in accordance with the principles set forth in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. However, much remained to be done with regard to full compliance with those principles, and consistent commitment to them was not apparent on the part of some agencies working in Ethiopia. Clear and practical guidelines should be established so as to maximize the use of limited resources. Programmes and funds should use the services of national experts and indigenous technologies to the fullest extent possible and strike the right balance between programme expenditure and the contracting of international experts, in accordance with the national execution modalities. Nevertheless, an increasing proportion of funds was being used for the payment of expensive expatriate staff and consultants in the name of programme support.

8. United Nations funds and programmes were facing an acute shortage of resources for the financing of programmes for the eradication of poverty and sustainable development. The decline in official development assistance was happening precisely at a time when the agencies were in a better position to undertake activities in a streamlined and efficient manner. His delegation expressed its appreciation with those countries which had reached or exceeded the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to official assistance for development. He also noted with appreciation the discussions in the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board aimed at reversing the decline in core resources and expressed satisfaction at the establishment of the Multi-year Funding Framework, integrating programme objectives, resources and outcomes.

9. His delegation felt that the United Nations Development Group, as a coordinating body, should encourage other organizations to emulate that example and should provide them with the necessary orientation for adapting their cooperation programmes to national execution modalities. He noted with satisfaction the initiatives aimed at strengthening the association between the United Nations and international financial institutions and considered that, in particular, the association between the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be based on complementarity, with due regard for the respective mandates and comparative advantages of each. He hoped that the lessons derived at the experimental stage of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework would make it possible to adjust it where necessary to the specific situation in each host country.

10. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (A/54/225), he noted the outstanding results achieved by UNIFEM in promoting the economic and political empowerment of women, the enhancement of human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women, through its support and advice to developing countries.

11. **Ms. Nuñez** (Cuba) associated herself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that agenda item 101 was of priority importance for the developing countries. It should, however, be asked how it was possible to speak of operational activities when the subject of the right to development had been shifted from the centre of the debate. How could one speak of development to a citizen of the Third World when his society was characterized by marginalization? How

could one take up the question at a time when there was an increasing tendency towards the reduction of official development assistance and of core resources for United Nations funds and programmes? Indeed, what kind of development was being spoken of when it was a question of imposing on countries development models that were very remote from their national interests and capacities?

12. Cuba reiterated its known views on the subject, namely, that the implementation of the initiatives formulated to resolve those problems could not be imposed on governments; that the setting of priorities and the formulation of any initiative was an inalienable prerogative of recipient States; and that it was unacceptable to attempt to derogate from the role of governments in their preparation and implementation. Similarly, Cuba reaffirmed that the neutrality, universality, and identity of funds and programmes should be preserved. With regard to the proposal to establish links between emergency relief programmes and rehabilitation assistance and longer-term development initiatives, unless timely action was taken, United Nations operational activities for development risked being turned into a mechanism for dealing with emergencies of any kind.

13. Her delegation believed that the solution of the problems faced by operational activities did not lie in the combination of measures proposed but in the mobilization of more resources for development. The current globalization of the economy, far from distributing technological advances and promoting cohesion among nations, accentuated the inequality between industrialized countries and developing countries, which had never been greater, as was demonstrated by the statistics in the recent *Human Resources Report*. In view of that reality, there was no doubt that the South needed the South in order to deal with the damage caused by neoliberal globalization. Her delegation reiterated the ever-increasing importance of technical cooperation among developing countries. Although significant progress had been achieved since the launching of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, so far full advantage had not been taken of the possibilities offered by such cooperation. The developing countries had varying experiences in different sectors, and experts who could offer their know-how to other developing countries. In that regard, it was not possible to sidestep the notorious lack of resources and financial support from donors for South-South cooperation in general and for TCDC and ECDC in particular.

14. The United Nations system and, in particular, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should continue trying to perfect the information system for providing developing countries with more precise and up-to-date data on their capacities and needs. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, the work being done by the Latin American Economic System (SELA) as a centre of cooperation for TCDC was notable and might be of interest for other regions. On the other hand, the expansion of TCDC and ECDC could not by any means be a substitute for North-South cooperation.

15. Cuba not only attributed great importance to TCDC but sincerely professed and implemented a clear policy of solidarity with its brothers of the South. In spite of the economic war to which it had been subjected for almost four decades, its specialists had collaborated in various countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the sectors of health, agriculture, education and sports, *inter alia*. More than 25,000 Cuban physicians had served in developing countries; 200 of the 3,000 Cuban physicians who were participating in the new free medical services programme that Cuba was offering to the poorest countries in Africa were still in the field; and 2,000 other health professionals were rendering services free of charge in the neediest locations in Central America and the Caribbean. The year 2000 would see the inauguration in Cuba of the Latin American School of Medicine, where 2,000 students from 18 countries in the region were already studying and whose admissions would rise to 6,000 students in three years; in Africa medical faculties were being created with Cuban professors, who provided teaching services free of charge. In April 2000, Cuba would host the South Summit, which should contribute to the globalization of solidarity, development and cooperation among the countries of the South.

16. *Mr. Niculescu (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

17. **Mr. Diseku** (South Africa) endorsed the statement by the Group of 77 and that of Mozambique, which was chairing the Southern African Development Community (SADC). He recalled that SADC had been borne of strong bonds of solidarity, common purpose and the collective action of the peoples of southern

Africa in their struggle against colonialism, racism, underdevelopment and poverty. SADC, which was founded on the values consecrated in the United Nations Charter, such as peace, security, fundamental human rights, gender equality, respect for international law and the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, had united its efforts and resources to put up resistance to apartheid in South Africa and to integrate and strengthen the economies of its member States in order to promote the stability and prosperity in the subregion.

18. SADC attached great importance to cooperation with the United Nations system, since it needed the support of the international community in order to realize its ideals and consolidate the progress made so far in the promotion of democratic institutions in the subregion. In that regard, it should be noted that South Africa had held its second general elections and that Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia would hold multi-party elections before the end of the current year. Nevertheless, the countries of the subregion, like the international community, were extremely concerned about the prolongation of the conflict in Angola, due mainly to the refusal of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to implement the Lusaka Protocol. The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was also contributing to instability and underdevelopment in the region, since the conflict had repercussions on 10 neighbouring countries, whose security was affected.

19. With regard to the problem of HIV/AIDS, which was consuming an enormous amount of financial and human resources on the local scale, SADC had adopted a declaration and plan of action to resolve problems relating to that scourge. A subregional programme for the removal of landmines was also being developed to support activities being carried out by the countries in that field. SADC had adopted a declaration to deal with that problem and coordinate the efforts of the international community with those being carried out in the subregion.

20. Drought associated with El Niño phenomenon and its adverse effects on food production and water management were of great concern in the subregion. Accordingly, SADC had drawn up a shared watercourses and preparedness protocol to mitigate the effects of drought.

21. The progress made in the rehabilitation of the subregion's transport and communications network, such as the Maputo and Lubombo corridors and the trans-Kalahari highway, through intergovernmental and private sector partnership, demonstrated the importance attached by SADC to improvement of the subregion's infrastructure. Other similar initiatives included association for the supply of electricity in Namibia and water in Lesotho, as well as the establishment of links between the stock exchanges in the region. In line with global trends, SADC had made strenuous efforts to remove barriers to the mobility of capital, goods, services and persons, and in January 2000 it would announce a trade protocol that would further remove economic barriers, such as tariffs, between its members.

22. The countries of the subregion had laid the bases for the promotion of economic growth by modernizing their economies and increasing efficiency, but some areas still suffered from the consequences of the debt burden and low levels of foreign direct investment. In spite of all the challenges before it, SADC was doing its best to promote regional integration and cooperation and to strengthen its capacity politically, economically and socially. In that endeavour it hoped to continue receiving the assistance of the United Nations and the international community.

23. **Ms. Corado-Cuevas** (Guatemala) endorsed the statements made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group and emphasized the need for development to occupy the place of highest priority on the United Nations agenda and the need to strengthen the role of the Organization in that sphere. The United Nations was well equipped to contribute to the development of capacity, which enabled it to help countries to overcome the institutional and organizational barriers that prevented them from progressing from an idea to its implementation. In that context, her delegation was concerned by the financial restrictions that the system, especially UNDP, was facing, inasmuch as they represented a waste of the vast potential of the United Nations in the sphere of operational activities.

24. With regard to the aspect of universality, Guatemala accepted the principle that the resources mobilized should be allocated in inverse proportion to the level of development of the countries, i.e., providing support to those most in need. Nevertheless, it might be questioned whether there had not been too

much movement in that direction, since only a small percentage of core resources were allocated to medium-income countries. Latin America received barely 4.5 per cent of the core resources, which, moreover, showed a downward trend. Emphasis should also be placed on the importance of efficiency in operational activities, through which the policies established by Member States for the benefit of all countries, recipients and donors, were implemented. Guatemala reaffirmed its commitment to horizontal cooperation in general and to technical cooperation among developing countries in particular, particularly within the framework of the preparatory process for the South Summit to be held in Havana in April 2000.

25. Although economic and technical cooperation among developing countries made it possible to exchange experience among nations facing similar situations, the full potential of such cooperation was far from being utilized; it was thus necessary to place emphasis on the philosophy, purpose and mechanisms of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Guatemala had made use of technical cooperation mechanisms throughout the years, but the main obstacle encountered in the execution of many of the projects had been the scarcity of resources from the source and from the beneficiary of the cooperation. Accordingly, supplementary support from a third source might have considerable catalytic value. Within the framework of its economic integration process, Guatemala had acquired a wealth of experience in technical cooperation among developing countries, which it was prepared to share.

26. Lastly, she reiterated the importance that Guatemala attached to operational activities, not only because of their effects for the country's development but also because of their linkage to complex aspects relating to peace, political stability and the consolidation of democracy. Peace and development were intimately linked, and it would be difficult to achieve peace if situations of extreme poverty, marginalization and injustice, together with economic backwardness, persisted.

27. **Mr. Al-Aujali** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in the face of the formidable challenges posed by globalization, liberalization of economy and trade and technological advancement beyond the control of many developing countries, the developing countries had embarked on promoting economic and technical cooperation among the countries of the South. According to the World Bank, regional and subregional cooperation agreements had risen from 39 in 1970 to 82 in the first seven years of the current decade. Within that framework, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had urged the international community to mobilize the necessary resources to enable the Special Unit on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to perform its functions by enhancing the competitiveness of those countries in order to facilitate their integration in the global economy and had reiterated the importance of integrating technical and economic cooperation modalities in all the activities of the United Nations system. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya considered it necessary that the Special Unit should be maintained as a separate entity and be provided with adequate resources.

28. In the context of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, emphasis should be placed on the vital role of UNCTAD in providing technical cooperation in the interrelated areas of trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development, which had directly benefited the developing countries and had made it possible for development experiences at the national and regional level to be incorporated in more coherent development policies at the international level. The activities being carried out by UNCTAD would continue to be of crucial importance for the developing countries in the future, particularly in the context of the rapid globalization and liberalization of the world economy. Adequate funds should therefore be made available to UNCTAD to enable it to provide the requisite technical assistance to developing countries, as well as to continue financing the participation of national experts in its activities.

29. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was concerned about the future of the United Nations Development Programme, whose work was of major importance in the context of the operational activities of the United Nations. In order for UNDP to be able to contribute to the socio-economic development of developing countries, its activities must be based on the socio-economic realities of those countries and must respect the diversity of their experience and socio-cultural values. The opinions of the developing countries must be taken into account in the restructuring of the functions of UNDP, so that countries would not feel that external values were being imposed on them in the

name of good governance. Like many developing countries, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believed that in the last few years UNDP had departed from its original mandate as the central funding mechanism for operational activities, for which it was now paying a heavy price. He hoped that the new UNDP leadership would not repeat the mistakes of the past.

30. With regard to the directive to United Nations resident coordinators to include human rights in the operational activities of the United Nations development agencies, it was surprising that the United Nations Development Group, which was an internal coordination mechanism for operational activities, had entered into fields that fell within the sovereign jurisdiction of the governments of developing countries and were not subject to the arbitrary decisions of international bureaucrats. The issue of human rights, which was often used as a weapon, was sensitive and was a matter for governments, not for the Group. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the right of countries to establish their development priorities and strategies should not be violated by purely internal mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Group.

31. **Mr. Kasri** (Indonesia) endorsed the statement made by the Group of 77 and China and said that his delegation welcomed the growing interest and support shown by a number of donor countries with regard to South-South cooperation. The South Summit to be held in Havana in April 2000 would provide an excellent opportunity to define a common vision of the future for the developing countries in the new millennium. The Summit would also give an impetus to South-South cooperation and the North-South dialogue.

32. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on South-South cooperation, cooperation in information technology was of great importance in the globalization era, because the development of communication infrastructure in developing countries had become a matter of high priority. In the Bali Plan of Action, adopted in December 1998, express reference had been made to cooperation in the fields of transport and communication. However, much remained to be done to close the information gap between the developing and the developed countries. Again, in spite of the ever-increasing momentum in South-South cooperation with regard to investments, capital flows and trade, there was still much more to be done, particularly when account was taken of the limited share that the developing countries had in overall world trade.

33. While it was recognized that the primary responsibility for the promotion of South-South cooperation resided with the developing countries themselves, in the current era of rapid globalization and interdependence, the multilateral system should play a primary role in promoting global economic expansion. Some steps had already been taken to facilitate the integration of South-South cooperation and operational activities. The initiatives to improve the coordination and effectiveness of the support given to South-South cooperation by the Special Unit and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system were also welcome. With regard to the results of the meeting of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in June 1999 in New York, it was crucial that the decisions of the Committee should be fully implemented. It was also important that the participation of all members of the international community in the adoption of such decisions should be facilitated and that financial support for such cooperation should be increased.

34. He welcomed the increase in cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community, which represented an important advance in the sphere of interregional cooperation. However, the report of the Secretary-General on the subject might be improved with a more complete analysis of the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen such cooperation. He paid a tribute to the United Nations Development Fund for Women for its focus on the need for the economic and political empowerment of women. Nevertheless, in spite of the progress made in the past decade, inequality and discrimination were still obstacles to the full participation of women in the lives of their communities, and violence against women continued to be a serious problem demanding to be vigorously addressed. It was therefore of the utmost importance that UNIFEM's catalytic and advocacy role with regard to human rights should be strengthened with a view to advancing all aspects of the Beijing Platform of Action.

35. With regard to the operational activities of the United Nations for development, Indonesia could accept the establishment of the Multi-year Funding Framework (MYFF) for the purpose of increasing the

core resources for operational activities. However, it noted with concern that the MYFF process had been diverted to peripheral and secondary activities; that situation should be corrected. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework should not be seen as a grand exercise of the funds and programmes but as an instrument for improving the coordination and implementation of the various programmes, full account being taken of existing conditions at the field level.

36. **Mr. Kim Young-Seok** (Republic of Korea) expressed appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and said that they demonstrated the need to adopt a global approach to such cooperation. In order to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to promote development, it was necessary that technical cooperation among developing countries be present in the activities of the whole system. The implementation of the new directions strategy would be particularly helpful to that end. Furthermore, there should be enhanced awareness of the importance of TCDC as an efficient development framework, and TCDC coordination centres should be established inside the various agencies or strengthened where they already existed.

37. The Republic of Korea believed that certain practical steps should be taken to promote TCDC. The integration of the modalities of economic cooperation and technical cooperation for development was a prerequisite for full and effective South-South cooperation. In that regard, the conclusions of the meetings on economic cooperation held in San José in 1997 and in Bali in 1998 should be fully implemented. It was also necessary to encourage greater participation by the private sector in South-South cooperation so as to facilitate the collection and dissemination of relevant information and to develop further the South-North-South triangular financing arrangements through participation by the donor community and interested international organizations. For its part, the Republic of Korea had decided that in the current year it would contribute US$ 100,000 to the Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, following its previous contributions of US$ 300,000 in the period 1996-1997.

38. In 1991 the Government of the Republic of Korea had established the Korea International Cooperation Agency, through which it carried out its programmes of assistance to developing countries. During the current year, that Agency would provide technical training for personnel from various developing countries and would finance numerous assistance missions, with a budget allocation of $32 million intended for international cooperation projects. Furthermore, the Government planned to host a high-level forum on South-South cooperation in science and technology early in the year 2000, which would contribute to the South Summit to be held in Havana in April 2000.

39. In his delegation's view, the Special Unit should serve as the focal point for all TCDC programmes in the United Nations system and should be given the full support of all Member States. Sharing development experiences might help others to overcome similar challenges, and the Republic of Korea therefore reaffirmed its commitment to promote technical cooperation activities for development and South-South cooperation.

40. **Ms. Coseteng** (Philippines) endorsed the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and emphasized the importance of General Assembly resolution 53/192, which laid down the conditions for the reform of United Nations operational activities and the establishment of a follow-up mechanism to ensure maximum impact at the country levels. It was necessary that the United Nations development system should focus its efforts on activities at the field level and be responsive to the priorities identified by the countries themselves and adapted to specific national and local situations, bearing in mind the special needs of the most vulnerable groups.

41. The decision to give priority to poverty eradication and capacity-building in the operational activities was also commendable. The Government of the Philippines had accorded the highest priority to the implementation of its Social Reform Agenda, an integral part of the National Development Plan. The Philippine strategy, directed by the Presidential Commission to Fight Poverty, was based on the participation of non-governmental and grass-roots organizations.

42. The mobilization of resources for development was very important for lifting the majority of the world's population from poverty. It was necessary to reverse the downward trend in core resources and to put funding for the United Nations on a predictable,

continuous and secure basis, commensurate with the needs of the developing countries. To that end, the Philippines would contribute to the holding of an international conference on financing for development. In the medium-term perspective, it hoped that the implementation of the Multi-year Funding Framework in support of operational activities would prove successful. In that regard, it was encouraging to note that in the case of UNDP resources a number of developed countries intended to increase their contributions and others had indicated multi-year pledges for the years 2000 and 2001 at the level of or higher than those for 1999. Nevertheless, she stressed the need for the donor community to augment the resources allocated to the operational activities of the United Nations until, for example, the target of US$ 1.1 billion was achieved for UNDP core resources.

43. The progress of the developing countries would enhance prosperity in the North, and assistance from the donor community was an investment for global development and peace. It was therefore necessary that those developed countries that had not yet done so should as soon as possible increase official development assistance to the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP. At the same time, she congratulated those countries that had reached or gone beyond that target.

44. It was important that, as a part of the next triennial policy review, there should be an evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, so that the results of the pilot stage might be taken into account at subsequent stages and positive experience utilized in other countries. For UNDAF to be a success, it was crucial that countries should assume ownership of projects and that UNDAF should be demand-driven and responsive to the priorities of developing countries, involving them at every point.

45. **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica) associated herself with the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Caribbean community and stressed the ever-increasing significance of South-South cooperation for the economic survival of the developing countries. The increase in such cooperation was heartening. The recent economic crisis of some Asian countries highlighted the interdependence of the global economy and the need for developing countries to rely on the principles of solidarity and collective self-reliance and to develop adequate mechanisms and policies for reaping the benefits of globalization.

46. Various United Nations bodies were concerned with facilitating South-South cooperation. Mention should be made of the work of UNCTAD in the area of capacity-building within the framework of the global system of trade preferences among developing countries and cooperation between UNCTAD and UNDP on the global programme on globalization, liberalization and sustainable human development. The Special Unit remained the central focal point for the coordination of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations. The strategic orientation, integration of technical cooperation and economic cooperation, sharing of information and experiences and expansion of the Information Referral System in collaboration with the Government of Brazil were a part of the work it was doing to promote South-South cooperation. In particular, Jamaica expressed appreciation for the Special Unit's collaboration in establishing the Small Island Developing States Network, which facilitated exchange of information and experience among regions and the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

47. Funding for technical cooperation among developing countries must be augmented, for example, by assigning it a larger proportion of UNDP resources, and that such funding should be provided on a systematic and predictable basis. At the eleventh meeting of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, some recent trends had been recognized in that area: developing countries were not only participating increasingly in activities funded by third parties but were also frequently initiating and funding TCDC activities; training was giving way to more complex forms of exchange; the level of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries had changed from bilateral and intraregional to interregional and global-scale arrangements; activities were increasingly oriented towards the private sector, rather than traditional institutional support; the new South-North-South triangular cooperation model was bringing a new dynamism to cooperation; TCDC had moved from specific and ad hoc interventions to longer-term strategic initiatives, and bilateral activities were being

replaced by activities encompassing a larger number of countries or bodies.

48. South-South cooperation might be strengthened in two specific areas: capacity-building and the launching of initiatives in the fields of science and technology in keeping with the new directions strategy. The United Nations and particularly the Special Unit, were playing an important role in facilitating and providing a framework for cooperation in those two areas, in which more tangible and sustainable results could be achieved through multilateral initiatives. With regard to science and technology, the development of the scientific expertise of the peoples of the developing world and the promotion of collaborative research could yield tremendous returns.

49. While Jamaica still remained primarily a recipient country in the overall context of TCDC, efforts were continually being made to provide assistance in areas in which it had experience. The Government of Jamaica reaffirmed its commitment to South-South cooperation, which constituted a formidable framework for the adoption of collective measures at the national, subregional, regional interregional and global levels.

50. *Mr. Matute (Peru), Vice-Chairman resumed the Chair.*

51. **Mr. Adawo** (Kenya) associated his delegation with the views expressed by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the group of 77 and China and said that it recognized the important role being played by UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM and other bodies in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. He expressed his concern at the lack of sincere commitment by donor countries in fulfilling their agreed target of US$ 1.1 billion as their contribution to the core resources of UNDP. It was also necessary to ensure that countries identified with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Kenya commended the support given by UNDP to developing countries in their endeavour to enhance the well-being of their citizens.

52. Technical and economic cooperation among developing countries was increasingly important and urgent. Cooperation among those countries might be an important vehicle for the exchange of skills and technical know-how, including the adoption of appropriate technologies. Within a framework of globalization and liberalization with market-oriented reforms and outward-looking growth policies, ECDC and TCDC would play an even greater role in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate scale economies and achieve a competitiveness that would enable them to become fully integrated in the global economy. In that context, subregional and regional groupings were the best formula for meeting the great challenge of the future. The countries of the South must, as a matter of survival intensify the efforts to implement agreed plans of action in that direction.

53. The countries of the region to which Kenya belonged had focused their efforts on economic integration at the regional and subregional level. In addition to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa they had decided to upgrade cooperation arrangements to which Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania were parties and to constitute an East African Community. United by strong natural, historic, social and cultural ties, that community would offer a single focus for investment and tourism and a single market with a common external tariff and would facilitate the free flow of goods, services and people. The countries of the area were also determined to deal with problems of conflicts and insecurity in the region, and to that end efforts were being made through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to search for mechanisms that would bring lasting peace.

54. The efforts made by the Group of 15 to establish a more constructive dialogue between North and South so that all mankind could reap the benefits of globalization were encouraging. At the ninth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 15, held that year in Jamaica, pertinent issues of concern to developing countries had been raised, and there had been a call for a broader-based approach that could respond to the needs of those countries. In that connection, he commended the increased cooperation between the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD to strengthen the institutional capacities of developing countries so as to enable them to participate more effectively in the negotiations of the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO and to reap maximum benefits from the multilateral trading system. With regard to the strengthening of cooperation in project implementation, Kenya would shortly identify the national agencies that would serve as focal points for project cooperation in liaison with other developing

countries. In the context of South-South cooperation, Kenya expressed appreciation to those countries that were providing technical assistance to its development activities, among whom mention might be made of India, which had rendered valuable assistance in the sector of small-scale industry.

55. **Mr. Shilovich** (Belarus) commended the work of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system for countries in need, which were based on the principles of universality, neutrality and multilateralism. The activities in the social field were of great importance for many countries, particularly Belarus. One of the most valuable mechanisms in that context was the system of resident coordinators, which should be strengthened by giving greater attention to the relationship of resident coordinators with Governments of recipient countries.

56. Belarus noted with satisfaction the measures adopted to increase the effectiveness of supervision and evaluation activities. Nevertheless, the working methods of UNDP should be improved so as to adapt them to the most modern techniques of human and financial resource management. Belarus was following with interest the process of the reform of UNDP activities that had been under way for some years. Development targets would not be met unless well-planned and coordinated international intervention was achieved, backed by the necessary funding. The marked decline in the core resources of United Nations programmes and funds was therefore disturbing.

57. Belarus had noted with interest the proposal considered at the first 1999 session of the Executive Board of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the establishment of a Multi-year Funding Framework to facilitate the distribution of resources among regions and countries under the new programme and budget cycle. That step seemed wise, inasmuch as resources should be distributed on a predictable, stable and long-term basis. The international community should also make a greater effort to increase the funding for operational activities for development, and donor countries and the World Bank should adopt practical measures in that regard.

58. He drew attention to the work being done by the UNDP Office in Belarus and the effective cooperation the country received from the United Nations Children's Fund. It would be desirable to have more active collaboration on the part of funds and programmes in the implementation of aid projects for Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine with a view to reducing the long-term effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe. It would also be desirable for funds and programmes to study the possibility of acquiring more goods and services in countries with economies in transition.

59. Belarus trusted that, through a collective effort, the general financial situation of the United Nations could be stabilized and that reforms would enhance the effectiveness of funds and programmes. He also hoped that practical measures would be adopted to strengthen the operational activities of the United Nations, special attention being accorded to the implementation of the principle of universality and due account being taken of the interests of all countries, including the special needs of economies in transition.

60. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) associated his delegation with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that operational activities for development occupied a strategic place in the institutional machinery of the United Nations. The programming, funding implementation and evaluation of operational activities was becoming increasingly complex by reason of the increase in the number of recipients and the services required of the Organization, the diversity of spheres of intervention, duplication of tasks and the constant decline in financial resources. In that context, he commended the initiatives adopted by the Secretary-General and the secretariats of the funds and programmes to reform structures, simplify standards and procedures and improve coordination and harmonization of programming cycles.

61. Senegal welcomed the establishment of a high-level dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and hoped that those exchanges would give rise to new cooperation, in conformity with the respective mandates of those institutions. With regard to inter-institutional coordination, duplication of efforts must be avoided between the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the World Bank Comprehensive Development Framework, since the two instruments had the same objectives and were intended for the same beneficiary. All those efforts would be useless unless sufficient resources could be mobilized.

62. Senegal commended the results obtained by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Funding Strategy for UNDP. The Multi-year Funding Framework was a fundamental test of the implementation of that strategy. In response to that new impetus, Senegal had participated as an observer at the ministerial level in the first funding meeting held during the second regular session of the Board held in April. On education it had contributed $280,000 as cost-sharing for the local office of UNDP for 1999 and had announced a special voluntary contribution of $20,000. It should be recalled that the Senegalese Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning had proposed that the sessions of the Executive Board of UNDP should sometimes be held in the countries where the programmes were being implemented, so that the supervisory and regulatory bodies could observe at first hand the successes and limitations of operational activities and the results for the recipient.

63. **Mr. Ntakhwana** (Botswana) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that strengthening regional economic communities was part of the overall strategy of the Abuja Treaty of 1991, whose aim was to create a full-fledged African economic community. The Southern African Development Community was one of the building blocks towards the achievement of that goal. In spite of the abundant natural resources of the region, the economies of the African countries were relatively small, and SADC would enable them to develop their potential and compete on the world market.

64. In order to promote integration, the countries of the region had signed memoranda of agreement and protocols in the various areas of cooperation and had created institutions to facilitate their implementation. The protocols adopted on energy, mining, transport and communications had begun to yield fruit. For example, in the energy sector a coordinated strategy had been adopted with a view to a balanced, equitable and environmentally sustainable utilization of resources.

65. The management of water resources was of critical importance for the development of southern Africa. It was essential to strengthen still further the cooperation among the countries of the region, since millions of people relied on subsistence agriculture and 70 per cent of the watercourses were shared by two or more States. The Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems guaranteed equitable and sustainable use of water for the entire region. UNDP and the World Bank had played an important role in the attainment of that objective.

66. SADC was firmly resolved to reduce poverty through sustained and broad-based economic growth and equitable distribution of social services, but the enormous burden of external debt inhibited the full economic and social development of the region. Although the principle and spirit of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative merited appreciation, its strict eligibility criteria were a matter of concern for countries.

67. The Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by SADC and its 1999 Addendum on Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children aimed at achieving equality of rights between men and women. The multisectoral approach adopted by SADC in the promotion of its development agenda had been facilitated by assistance from United Nations funds and programmes, the Nordic countries, Japan, the United States, the European Union and other development partners. However, the countries of southern Africa still faced the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its implications on the economies of the region.

68. Questions of peace, stability, democracy and good governance continued to dominate the Community's agenda. It had continued to consult the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in its task of ensuring that all citizens reaped the benefits of regional cooperation. It also counted on the support of the international community to achieve that goal.

69. **Mr. Guglielmelli** (Venezuela) endorsed the observations made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group and said that Venezuela, like them, was concerned by the persistent decline in official development assistance and, in particular, in voluntary contributions to core resources of UNDP and other United Nations agencies. UNDP core resources currently represented less than 35 per cent of its total resources, which jeopardized its character as a development programme and its presence in all regions of the world. However, the resources provided by developing countries to UNDP activities had systematically increased, and it was interesting to note that for every US$ 10 contributed by donor countries to core resources, the developing

countries were contributing $15 to supplementary resources on a cost-sharing basis.

70. A fundamental element for the promotion of development was cooperation among the developing countries themselves. Venezuela reaffirmed its satisfaction with the South-South cooperation machinery established by UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Population Fund, the Group of 77 and the Pérez Guerrero Fund, *inter alia*, to facilitate the attainment of the objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Caracas Programme of Action. He also expressed full support for the holding of the first South Summit, to be held in Havana in the year 2000.

71. Venezuela made a special contribution based on solidarity to the strengthening of cooperation among the countries of the South. For more than two decades it had been implementing a broad programme of cooperation among the States of the Caribbean, focused in particular on the training of human resources in various spheres, such as agricultural development, health and technical and professional training, and had participated in the development of infrastructures, housing construction and emergency assistance in cases of natural disaster. Together with Mexico, Venezuela had for almost 20 years been implementing the San José Agreement, which had guaranteed the supply of energy to the countries of Central America and the Caribbean and had provided financial and technical assistance on preferential terms for the implementation of development projects, always respecting the national priorities of those countries. Venezuela had also carried out horizontal cooperation programmes with its neighbours and with States members of the Andean Community, aimed at the promotion of commercial and economic activities.

72. Technical cooperation among developing countries offered a unique opportunity to confront the challenges imposed by globalization, and that type of cooperation programme should be continued and promoted. Venezuela stressed the need for civil society organizations to participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and projects, inasmuch as that would contribute to the achievement of long-term results and the most efficient use of the limited financial resources available.

73. **Ms. A Shipala-Musavyi** (Namibia) endorsed the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Referring to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/204 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community, she said that the economic growth of the region of the SADC countries had been effected by the conflict in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The SADC countries expressed appreciation to the European Union and to Japan, Belgium, Germany and Sweden for their support in the implementation of the peace agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With regard to Angola, UNITA's failure to honour its obligations under the Lusaka Agreement continued to cause loss of lives and property, and the countries of the community called for assistance to the Government of Angola in rendering the necessary services to the people. She expressed appreciation also to the efforts being made by the United States, in the context of the SADC forum, to promote greater political stability and reduce the potential for conflict in Africa. The efforts of the SADC countries to put an end to conflict in the region were of the utmost importance, since peace would help to create a favourable climate for domestic and foreign investment. The determination of the SADC leaders to promote peace and stability was a clear indication that the Community was assuming responsibility for the development of the region. However, those efforts needed to be complemented through the continued assistance in solidarity of the international community.

74. Like some other SADC countries, Namibia was affected by refugee problems. In that regard, it expressed appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the assistance rendered and called upon the international community to support all UNHCR to cater for refugees in southern Africa as it did for refugees elsewhere in the world.

75. At the Summit of Heads of State or Government of SADC held recently in Maputo (Mozambique), the leaders had welcomed the positive results obtained since 1996 through the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies and the integration of economic activities in the various sectors. However, in order to reduce poverty in the region a growth rate of at least 6 per cent was required, and that made it necessary to mobilize regional resources to facilitate

cross-border investments through the establishment of joint ventures. To that end, the establishment of the Southern African Enterprise Network and the Association of SADC National Chambers of Commerce and the activities of its Working Group on Investment were extremely important.

76. SADC remained committed to the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC). The SADC free trade protocol would open a market of close to 200 million people. Furthermore, regional cooperation in trade and investment would complement efforts towards the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. Her delegation called upon the international community to assist the Organization of African Unity and AEC in the dual performance of their functions. SADC continued to maintain excellent relations with other groupings of developing countries, such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) which contributed to the strengthening of South-South Cooperation, and it was certain that the South Summit to be held in Havana would contribute further to cooperation among developing countries.

77. High rates of HIV/AIDS in the region had serious socio-economic repercussions and affected the young population above all, but inadequate funds had impeded the adoption of a holistic approach to the problem. The conspiracy of silence about the disease further compounded the problem. Accordingly, SADC ministers of health had proposed the adoption of a national policy to encourage those affected with AIDS to talk freely about it. In 1997, SADC had adopted a Declaration on Gender and Development, making 2005 the target year for having women holding at least 30 per cent of the positions in political and leadership structures.

78. **Mr. Zarie Zare** (Islamic Republic of Iran) associated his delegation fully with the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 101 and drew attention to the negative consequences of economic globalization for the developing countries, which lacked the opportunities and resources to formulate and implement self-designed development strategies. Nevertheless, there were possibilities for exploiting the knowledge and advances attained by developing countries through regional and subregional agreements within the framework of South-South cooperation. The South Summit to be held shortly in Cuba would afford an opportunity for in-depth consideration of such cooperation and the introduction of new and innovative modalities.

79. The United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies had made great strides in the strengthening of technical cooperation among developing countries. Such cooperation, which was mainly based on local human resources, indigenous technology and common conditions and environment, could bring effective and cost-efficient outcomes. There still existed lots of untapped potentials for expansion vertically and horizontally, for example, extension of technical cooperation to new areas such as finance, establishment and promotion of financial and capital markets, utilization of new financial instruments, exchange of experiences for constraining financial volatility and the application of good banking practices. While TCDC was a complement and not a substitute for North-South cooperation, new initiatives for the participation of developed countries were emerging, such as the provision of resources through triangular agreements, which might be appropriate for the strengthening of cooperation. In that regard, he commended the annual contribution made by some States members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

80. The United Nations system had played an important role in supporting, promoting and facilitating TCDC. He noted in particular the preparation of revised guidelines by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for mainstreaming the TCDC modality into the operational activities of the United Nations system. Participation of the private sector and civil society in TCDC was both necessary and useful. However, for the creation of an environment favourable to such cooperation there was an urgent need for the integration of developing countries in the global economy. The Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization could play a catalytic role in that regard.

81. Lastly, he drew attention to the problem confronting the funds and programmes of the United Nations system owing to lack of resources, particularly core resources. Within the framework of the process of changes and reform in the Organization, mechanisms had been created or strengthened, in the field and at Headquarters, to enhance effectiveness and

coordination, such as the United Nations Development Group, the common country assessment system, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the resident coordinator system and United Nations House. Nevertheless, government contributions had been neither sufficient nor timely, and it was necessary for the donor community to demonstrate a greater political will to implement the financial commitments made in various international forums.

82. **Mr. Franco** (Colombia) expressed his delegation's support for the statements made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group and emphasized the importance of the United Nations as the sole universal forum where the coordination of matters relating to development assistance could be debated with the frank participation of donor and recipient countries. Multilateral cooperation, provided that it was free of conditions, was, in concrete terms of effectiveness and efficiency, an answer for the attainment of development objectives. He welcomed the changes that had taken place in recent years in the United Nations system and which were reflected in concrete efforts to achieve concerted action in accordance with the initiatives of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the United Nations Development Group and the dialogue established with the Bretton Woods Institutions. He stressed the decisive role of the General Assembly in the formulation of a guiding policy in that regard and called for the effective implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/6.

83. When considering the coordination of development assistance, it was necessary to analyse the modes of communication and complementarity among multilateral cooperation bodies and bilateral cooperation bodies, whose objectives did not always agree, as the first step towards the formulation of recommendations designed to achieve optimization of development assistance and obviate the existence of programmes with opposing objectives in the same country and sector. The Economic and Social Council was called upon to play a basic role in that regard.

84. The stagnation of official development assistance was one of the factors that was obstructing the attainment of the goal established at the main international conferences. Development activities were not less important than activities for the maintenance of peace and security, since they were the cornerstone of prosperity, internal social stability and international collective security and should not be interpreted as acts of generosity but as part of a global self-preservation mechanism. The stagnation of official development assistance levels was particularly prejudicial to medium-income countries such as those of Latin America. While it was fair that scarce assistance resources should be channelled mainly to meet the needs of the least advanced countries, it should be borne in mind that per capita income figures indicated an average and that in medium-income countries, such as Colombia, they did not reflect internal imbalances or differences between regions, in some of which poverty and needs might be as urgent as in the least developed countries.

85. Colombia recognized the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the context of the present process of United Nations reform. As one of the 18 countries where the Framework had been applied experimentally, Colombia had great expectations with regard to the changes that would take place in the field in the effects of development cooperation within the United Nations system. Strengthening the coherence and clarifying the objectives with the various funds, programmes and agencies of the system at the national level would respond to one of the major difficulties faced by the Organization. The Government of Colombia reiterated that it was prepared to collaborate in the formulation of UNDAF and help to ensure that that mechanism offered a direct and effective response to the most pressing needs of the population, in accordance with the measures defined in the National Development Plan.

86. The resident coordinator system should be capable of exerting clear leadership so as to channel effectively the initiatives of the various agencies of the United Nations system and should also be an adequate interlocutor of the system with governmental institutions. The Colombian Government had taken the initiative of convening meetings with the agencies accredited to the country in order to exchange views on the role of the United Nations there, learn the experience derived from its work in the country and also transmit comments on its international policy projections. The positive results of that increased communication should ensure that a more fluid dialogue between the Government and the agencies

would be the key for the effective implementation of UNDAF.

87. Colombia attached special importance to cooperation among developing countries and believed that United Nations support activities for South-South cooperation initiatives should be coordinated and should focus on areas that the recipient countries considered as priorities for the national interest. In that regard, the promotion of scientific, technological and institutional capacity was fundamental for the achievement of effective results in the medium and long term.

88. **Mr. Maruyama** (Japan) said that the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development of the United Nations system would depend on greater flexibility and responsiveness to the development needs of countries. At the same time, greater coherence of policies should be achieved in order to ensure optimum utilization of resources and the greatest impact of activities. Accordingly, the strengthening of that aspect should be the major objective. All development actors, including Bretton Woods institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, should take joint action in such areas as the establishment of common targets, measurable indicators and an output-oriented approach, in order to make the best use of their comparative advantages.

89. The Government of Japan requested the United Nations to assume responsibility for the coordination of the development efforts of the various agencies, which were implementing fully the conclusions of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development that the General Assembly had considered at its previous session. He welcomed the progress made with regard to the resident coordinator system and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and hoped that the implementation of UNDAF would be further promoted as the number of participating organizations increased and joint measures were adopted with interested governments, in view of the importance of their ownership of the development process.

90. Much remained to be done in the field of emergency response and humanitarian assistance. Relief programmes could not simply be phased out and replaced with normal development cooperation programmes. Humanitarian assistance and development cooperation should be integrated at an early stage in order to ensure sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation and facilitate gradual transition to full scale activities. His delegation requested the United Nations to assume a leadership role and achieve tangible progress in that area. Its efforts should also be coordinated with the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank, and collaboration with bilateral donors should be promoted. The Government of Japan had been facilitating multi-bilateral cooperation, which provided a way for the most efficient and effective use of the comparative advantages of the various agencies and reinforced the impact of their development activities by making the most of the limited economic and human resources available.

91. In spite of the changes that had taken place in the world, technical cooperation among developing countries remained a valid mechanism that was acquiring ever increasing importance. The Government of Japan was pleased to see that South-South cooperation, especially in the form of triangular cooperation, was today recognized as a valuable instrument for promoting development. South-South cooperation should be integrated in all the operational activities of the United Nations system, and triangular cooperation should also be actively promoted. To that end, his delegation proposed that the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should include South-South triangular cooperation among the items for discussion at its twelfth session. South-South cooperation offered tremendous potential as a modality for development in the twenty-first century. However, it should be remembered that the primary responsibility in that area lay with the developing countries themselves, which should receive the support of the developed countries. Japan, for its part, reaffirmed that it would continue giving all possible support to South-South cooperation and technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

92. **Mr. Fasehun** (World Intellectual Property Organization) emphasized the advances made in science, technology and the arts during the present century and said that intellectual capital would be the driving force behind the third millennium economy. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was assisting developing countries to enable them to

share in the benefits of a knowledge-based economy through capacity-building, exploitation of intellectual capital and protection of intellectual property rights. WIPO was assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to take advantage of the global intellectual property regime to accelerate social and economic development. Its assistance took many forms and covered various areas, such as biodiversity, traditional knowledge, licensing and transfer of technology, as well as innovative and inventive activities. A principal component of its work was capacity-building, and to that end it had contributed to the operating of the intellectual property offices of many developing countries, and that assistance would be increased in its next budgetary cycle. In that context, it had sent advisory missions to 98 developing countries and had provided computer equipment to 90 others, and its experts had collaborated in 34 developing countries in the elaboration of the necessary programmes for the automation of their offices. In addition it had supplied more than 250 CD-ROM workstations to 76 developing countries. Another component of WIPO's assistance was the training of human resources. Through its World Wide Academy system it was imparting knowledge about intellectual property and also had a Long Distance Learning Program offered through the Internet and a fellowship programme from which 66 students from developing countries had benefited.

93. WIPO was also playing an important role in electronic commerce by disseminating information on ways of exploiting and protecting intellectual property through digital technologies. WIPO treaties helped to create a favourable environment for foreign investment and electronic commerce. Through a global network, WIPOnet, private and public networks throughout the world would be used to make intellectual property information widely and freely available to the public. Under an agreement concluded with the World Trade Organization in 1995, WIPO was assisting developing countries in fulfilling the obligations contracted under the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights agreement. So far 124 developing countries had, including the least developed, and one Territory received assistance in that area.

94. **Mr. Bakoniarivo** (Madagascar) associated his delegation with the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and stressed the importance of the operational activities of the United Nations system for development, which were a tangible example of multilateral cooperations. With regard to the conceptual framework of operational activities, the basic features should be reaffirmed: the need to preserve and strengthen the multilateral framework of cooperation; respect for the concept of universality; preservation of the political, neutral, disinterested and concessionary character of such programmes; and respect for the objectives and priorities of the recipient States. In the triennial review, general interest in respect for those principles had been noticeable.

95. With regard to measures to strengthen the coherence of activities and promote the effectiveness of programmes, Madagascar welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to establish a United Nations Development Group, whose tasks were closely related to the restructuring taking place in UNDP. The developing countries were prepared to collaborate with the agencies concerned in the search for means and measures for finalizing United Nations development frameworks, which he hoped would give greater strategic value and greater cohesion to operational activities. It was necessary to strengthen collaboration between United Nations development agencies and international financial institutions. The frameworks of the United Nations and the World Bank showed basic conceptual differences. The consultations underway concerning the World Bank Comprehensive Development Framework should not call in question the principles already established regarding the future orientation of operational activities for development. Harmonization was essential for unification of approaches, but subordination to the international financial system would have serious consequences for the future of the United Nations multilateral cooperation system.

96. Efforts to rationalize mechanisms would not have positive results unless there were adequate resources. The constant decline in the global transfer of resources, accompanied by a general decline in programme funding, was disturbing. For example the stagnation, or even the decline in real values during the last three years of contributions to UNDP was a cause of grave concern and was paradoxical if account was taken of the increase in resources other than core resources. It was generally felt that the financial crisis of the operational institutions was due basically to the lack of support of some of the principal donor countries, the

higher priority accorded to bilateral cooperation and the effects of the global economic recession.

97. The need for technical and financial assistance was today greater than ever, in view of the economic difficulties being experienced by the developing countries as a result, *inter alia*, of the constant decline in the purchasing power of export income, the contraction of concessionary finance flows, limited access to capital markets, excessive indebtedness and new obligations relating to environmental protection. Madagascar reaffirmed the need to attain the agreed targets, particularly that of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance, in order to arrive at genuine international cooperation based on the principles of solidarity interdependence and partnership. It was also necessary that the financing of operational activities should be founded on a more secure and predictable basis.

98. **Mr. Murat** (Haiti) associated himself with the statements made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the States of the Caribbean Community and said that, in spite of the great achievements and transformations observed during the twentieth century, it had not been possible to eradicate scourges such as poverty and underdevelopment. A large part of the world's population was not yet in a situation to avail itself of the possibilities offered by globalization and technological advances.

99. While there was no single model to resolve the problem of underdevelopment, international cooperation was increasingly necessary for the strengthening and sharing of the human, institutional, economic and technical capacities of States. The Government of Haiti therefore promoted cooperation with developing and other countries that had experiences similar to its own in the struggle against poverty, the eradication of diseases, the consolidation and modernization of State institutions and the prevention of natural disasters. In the spirit of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and within the framework of the Caracas Programme of Action, Haiti's foreign policy accorded ever-increasing importance to regional integration and the strengthening of cooperation among the countries of Latin American and the Caribbean. Scientific and technical cooperation agreements had been concluded with some countries of the region, and trade and promotion agreements were being negotiated with others. Recently Haiti had become the fifteenth member of the Caribbean Community.

100. Official development assistance continued to decline, in spite of the serious social situation of many countries and recurring financial crises. It was essential that the countries of the South should expand their partnerships to compensate the lack of aid from the North and establish information networks. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that South-South cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, but only complement it. He hoped that the South Summit to be held in Havana in April 2000 would make it possible to renew and expand the basis of South-South cooperation and establish a constructive dialogue on the subject.

101. History showed the necessity of renewing South-South cooperation, particularly within the United Nations system. Such renewal involved, first of all the establishment of a secretariat to improve the coordination of activities. It would also be desirable to define the modalities of collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organizations with a view to increasing resources for cooperation among developing countries.

102. The United Nations should be commended for the significant work it had done as a linkage point in South-South cooperation. Nevertheless, the functions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be revitalized through the creation of new mechanisms to facilitate cooperation in the field of scientific investigation and the dissemination of knowledge and to promote trade among developing countries.

103. **Mr. Kadhe** (Iraq) supported the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that the support of the international community was of great importance for the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Cooperation in that area should be translated into concrete measures to help developing countries in implementing national strategies for the advancement of women.

104. In some countries, the imposition of economic embargoes and sanctions of indefinite duration created a difficult economic, social and humanitarian situation that impeded the implementation of national programmes to benefit women. For nine years Iraq had suffered the effects of an unjust embargo, which had

led to a decline in the participation of women in public life and undermined the achievements they had obtained at the scientific, economic and social levels. The difficult social situation in the country had caused many women to abandon their professional life to work as housewives. The negative repercussions of the embargo were also a threat to the physical and psychological health of women owing to daily suffering from a lack of food and medicaments and through being unable to satisfy the basic needs of the family.

105. Despite all that, the Government of Iraq had accorded special attention to women as a mainstay of the family and had promulgated laws to prevent discrimination against women in various spheres. Iraq had been one of the first countries to formulate a national strategy for the advancement of women to the year 2005. Nevertheless, those efforts would not yield fruit as long as the country was subjected to an embargo. An end should be put to the economic embargo imposed on Iraq so that it could implement its national economic and social development plans and once again occupy a notable place in the provision of assistance to developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation.

106. **Mr. Reshetniak** (Ukraine) reiterated his support for the operational activities of the United Nations, which played a unique role in promoting sustainable development. The United Nations system and national governments were trying to adapt to the new situation created by globalization, trade liberalization and the expanding role of the private sector in international economic relations. While greater effectiveness had been achieved in United Nations funds and programmes, it had not been possible to increase contributions to their core resources. In that regard, it was necessary to strengthen partnership-based relations between the United Nations development system, the Bretton Woods institutions and donor countries.

107. Ukraine shared the view of other delegations that the Multi-year Funding Framework could be an important strategic management tool to give greater focus to the work of UNDP, particularly at the country level. In that context, Ukraine supported the decision on that issue adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session. Among the priority aspects of United Nations development activities, emphasis should be placed on efforts designed to eradicate poverty, which had been aggravated in recent years as result of financial crises. Ukraine welcomed the UNDP focus on the priority it was according to the struggle against poverty, in particular through the establishment of the NetAid Web site.

108. Another important UNDP mechanism for the eradication of poverty was the annual preparation of the *Human Development Report*. The Ukraine drew the attention of the Committee to the *Human Development Report for Europe and the Community of Independent States*, which gave a comprehensive picture of the processes taking place in that region and highlighted the real meaning of the "cost of transition". Although their presence in the Ukraine was relatively recent, UNDP and other United Nations funds and programmes had been successful in their activities and had gained the respect of the Government and the people. UNDP should continue playing a decisive role as coordinator of the activities of United Nations agencies in the Ukraine, in particular through the implementation of the Crimea Integration and Development Programme. In September 1999, the United Nations Office in Ukraine had initiated the Crimea Consultative Forum, with the participation of local authorities and civil society, including representatives of various ethnic groups resident in Crimea. That initiative might serve as an example for the prevention of possible conflicts in other countries and regions.

109. Ukraine would continue the further development of its relations with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. While it shared a concern about the current financial situation of UNFPA, it hoped that the new posts established in the region would help to strengthen its programme activities.

110. **Mr. Dogani** (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed appreciation on behalf of the people of Tanzania for the condolences expressed on the death of Mr. Julius Nyerere, former President and founder of the nation, whose loss had profoundly moved the country. With regard to the item under consideration by the Committee, Tanzania fully endorsed the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that, at a time when the demand for United Nations operational activities to help developing countries to emerge from poverty was increasing, the necessary resources for the discharge of the mandate entrusted to it by Member States for the promotion of economic and social development were not being provided to the Organization. In the

circumstances, South-South cooperation was acquiring special importance, inasmuch as it facilitated the exchange of experiences among countries and promoted collective action for development.

111. While TCDC could not be regarded as a substitute for North-South cooperation, the countries of the South realized that it offered possibilities. In order to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of TCDC, it was necessary to strengthen networking arrangements and information flows; to improve coordination centres for TCDC activities; to establish effective linkages and cost-effective programmes at country and institutional levels; to promote private sector participation; and to mobilize the necessary resources for programme implementation particularly in the least developed countries.

112. Tanzania commended the development partners that had provided it with assistance through triangular cooperation and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries for its extraordinary work and urged the donor community to provide adequate resources to enable the Unit to discharge its mandate properly. His delegation supported the statement by Mozambique on behalf of the States members of the Southern African Development Community, a regional group that had attained very satisfactory results and was a good example of the spirit of South-South cooperation, and he expressed appreciation to donors for the vital support they had provided to it. Tanzania was looking forward to the holding of the South Summit in Havana (Cuba) in the year 2000, which would provide an opportunity for a review of South-South cooperation at the highest governmental level and a chance to explore further areas of cooperation.

113. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that he was pleased to note that the developing countries were increasingly taking the initiative of promoting technical and economic cooperation among themselves and funding their own TCDC activities. Triangular cooperation agreements had promoted new forms of cooperation with the participation not only of governments but also of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

114. Nigeria's participation in the activities of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was perhaps less well known than its enormous contributions towards peacekeeping, on which economic integration in the subregion so much depended. Within the framework of ECOWAS various measures had been adopted to integrate the people of western Africa and the commerce of the region in the African community. In recognition of Nigeria's commitment to the promotion of the economic integration of the region, as well as economic growth, sustainable development and improvement of the standard of living of all Africans, the President of Nigeria had been Guest of Honour at the meeting of the Southern African Development Community held in Maputo (Mozambique) in August 1999.

115. His delegation believed that intraregional exchanges were vital for South-South cooperation. Nevertheless, for the results of such cooperation to be translated into concrete benefits for citizens, it would be necessary to continue promoting the TCDC modality and allocating adequate funding for the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, so as to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively.

116. Lastly, he pointed out that it was necessary to reduce the external debt burden of the developing countries to a sustainable level and to facilitate market access for the exports of those countries in order to enhance their foreign exchange earning capacity. External cooperation measures adopted by the international community would strengthen national policies and capacity and enable the countries and peoples of the South to benefit from the operational activities of the United Nations system and finally exercise their right to development.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.